

WARREN
MAGAZINE



VAMPI
#36

SEPT. 1974

TWO SUPER COLOR STORIES IN THIS SUMMER SPECTACULAR!

VAMPIRELLA

SHIPS-4
PDC
57 25

Q
HEARTS



Q
HEARTS

SPECIAL
5th
ANNIVERSARY
ISSUE

VAMPIRELLA
HER BLOOD-RED
QUEEN
OF HEARTS
BECOMES
AN ANCIENT
EGYPTIAN
RULER
IN
"VAMPIRE
OF THE NILE!"

ALSO
"PUPPET
PLAYER!"
MURDEROUS
MANIKINS
PLOT A GHASTLY
REVENGE
AGAINST MAN!

Q
HEARTS

Q
HEARTS

SEVEN
CHILLING
CLASSICS!

WELCOME TO THE
WEIRD AND WONDERFUL
WORLD OF VAMPIRELLA!

THAT'S ME
VAMPIRESS FROM
BEYOND THE STARS
WEAVER OF STRANGE
AND OFTEN CHILLING
TALES...

AND THIS IS MY SPECIAL
FIFTH ANNIVERSARY ISSUE!
WITHIN THESE PAGES I HAVE
BROUGHT TOGETHER THE WORLD'S
GREATEST WRITERS AND ARTISTS
TO PRESENT SEVEN TALES OF THE
MYSTERIOUS, THE UNHOLY AND THE
DAMMED, TALES OF FANTASY
TALES OF EVIL, TALES OF
HORROR, TALES THAT WILL
TEST THE BOUNDARIES OF
YOUR IMAGINATION.

MINE IS
A WORLD OF
AWE AND
WONDER. NOW
I INVITE YOU TO
SHARE IT WITH
ME...

for Vampirella

MICHAEL GONZALEZ



Editor-In-Chief
& Publisher
JAMES WARREN

Editor
W.B. DUBAY

Art Production
W.R. MOHALLEY

Interior Color
MICHELE BRAND
RICH CORRIN

Circulation Director
AB SIDEMAN

Marketing Director
JEFF ROVIN

Cover
SANJULIAN

Book Cover
ENRICH

Artist This Issue

AURALEON
JOSE BEA
FERNANDO FERNANDEZ
JOSE GONZALEZ
FELIX MAS
ESTEBAN MAROTO
JOSE ORTIZ
RAMON TORRENTS

Writers This Issue

JOSE BEA
FERNANDO FERNANDEZ
JOHN JACOBSON
PLAXMAN LOEW
RICH MAROOPOLOUS
MARTIN PARKO

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VAMPIRELLA

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Murderous mannikins on the march, and the man who is forced to give a weird command performance... with the puppets pulling all the strings!

CONCERNING OUR MAIL ORDER ADVERTISEMENTS: Warren Publishing Co. guarantees the delivery and satisfaction of all items advertised in this issue. Should you need to write us concerning an order, whether it be from our address or a Post Office Box address, send your letter to: E.O. Ives, Customer Service Dept., Warren Publishing Co., 145 E. 32nd Street, New York, N.Y. 10016.



Readers welcome the return of Jeff Jones!

Call up another success for everybody at Warren, with the May issue of VAMPIRELLA.

The Flaxman Loew/Jose Gonzalez team produced a good story in "The Sultan's Revival." It was clever, using a character from the previous issue as the antagonist in this one. Loew seems to have mastered the art of the twist ending, and Gonzalez did exceptional illustration, capturing the mood of the Oriental kingdom and the demons lurking in the crypt.

The rest of the issue was also better than usual. *Pantha* is starting to get more complex as she probes the mystery of her childhood. Rich Corben's art on "Top to Bottom" was perfect for the moody setting, and the Chinese vampire in "Barfly" was a welcome change. Perhaps John Jacobson could be persuaded to do a sequel?

One final note: I am glad to hear that Archie Goodwin is back; it's been too long an absence without his skills. Now if he can only find the time to write a few scripts.

NORMAN E. DAVIDSON
Union, N.J.

I have enjoyed reading your magazine for two years now, and every issue is more fantastic than the last! All of the artists in Warren magazines are great!

The last few covers have been excellent, especially the ones with VAMPIRELLA on the cover! But with all that excellence, there are still duds.

For one thing, you need more art on every issue, and more Gothic stories like "Quivering Shadows."

You should also bring back VAMPI's FLAMES, and possibly some group pages of VAMPI in various costumes. How about more posters inside the magazine and not always on the back cover?

Also, now that you have Archie Goodwin back, how about letting him script some VAMPIRELLA stories?

Please consider some of the improvements and a great magazine may become even better.

STEVE JACOBSS
Modest Town, Va.

What happened to your logo in the Scarlet Letters logo? You seem to be all shrivelled up! Are you in a state of transformation or is something in there with you?

WILLIAM NEWBY
San Diego, Calif.

I'll never tell.

I really enjoy your magazine. Your art is excellent and the stories show careful thought is involved in the writing. Jose Gonzalez, unlike other artists breathes life into his drawings. And Flaxman Loew shows a subtlety of plot not often found in horror magazines!

NDLA FRAME
Granada Hills, Calif.

The coming out of VAMPIRELLA from a tongue-tie check heftiness to the star of her own series in 1971 was one of the big events in graphic literature in the last ten years. Even after Archie Goodwin retired from the series, VAMPIRELLA still inspired its writers to rise to the challenge, producing intriguing, powerful stories.

Until Flaxman Loew. It seems he has reduced the star of the series to a bit part, his only contribution to the story in #34 being to kill Sull.

As for the rest of the stories in that issue, they were so devoid of depth and purpose that it is impossible to even comment on them.

Maybe I'm being unreasonably to expect VAMPIRELLA to metamorphose overnight, but so far for the only change I've noticed is the name Archie Goodwin in the credits.

LYNN SCHARBOW
San Francisco, Calif.

I see that we have another controversy brewing in the letters pages. Four different readers in VAMPIRELLA #33 voice the complaint that our heroine has become a bit garish with her attractions!

This hasn't bothered me much. She is, after all, currently unattached. And it seems unreasonable that a woman as attractive as VAMPI should be lacking male company for very long. Certainly she few involvements she has had do not make her promiscuous. In fact, this seems to compliment your magazine's mature attitude.

The subject of VAMPI's love life has always been handled with intelligence and good taste, avoiding excessive amounts of either romanticism or eroticism. Still a variety of lovers seems to trouble many readers. So Adam Van Helsing will eventually demand a return as VAMPI's steady boy friend. But even their past relationship was interrupted by a brief fling with Dracula. So we can only anticipate more of the same.

Anyway, Adam or no Adam, I can hardly wait to see VAMPI in color again.

BRIAN CADEN
Cincinnati, Ohio

Your issues are getting better and better, and issue #34 was great! Jeff Jones' work on the inside front cover was superb, and I'm glad to see Felix Manz has returned! One thing, though. You said that Frank Frazetta was back, but all I have seen by him was one cover which also appeared on a paperback! When do we see some new stuff?

HUDSON HILL
Cape Canaveral, Fla.

Frank is about as hard to pin down as yours truly, Hudson.

The highlight of VAMPIRELLA #34 was the color story, "Black and White Vacuum to Blows" Doug Moench, Esteban Maroto, and Bill Dubay really outdid themselves in an intelligent, thought provoking story that did not rely on monsters or gore.

JAMES REASONER
Arlie, Texas

VAMPIRELLA #34 was excellent. From "Carnival of Death" to the moody illustrated tale, "Cold Cuts," it was just great but there are two things I'd like to comment on.

First was Archie Goodwin's sensible editorial on black and white comics.

The main trouble is that too many horror films have been done in color. Of course, there is nothing wrong with that. Hammer and American International have done it quite successfully. But black and white is perhaps the only way to do truly moody horror stories. I have heard it oft said that Hitchcock's PSYCHO was never meant for color and I concur. The shower scene would have been totally ruined in color. Mario Bava's BLACK SUNDAY with lovely Barbara Steele (oh, there would be a beautiful movie VAMPIRELLA!) is another classic black & white fright film. And let's not forget NIGHT OF THE LIVING DEAD.

Black & white can sometimes be more effective in conveying an atmosphere of horror than vivid color!

Secondly, the little item on page four leads me to believe that you are going to pit VAMPI against a female for its about time! You could even use one of your already existing characters such as Anna or Luana!

Also, I hope you have plans to bring back Ching Shih, the Chinese vampire in John Jacobson's "Barfly".

RAYMOND BOWIE
Somerville, Mass.



"The Carnival of Death," the chilling tale of the night the graves surrendered their dead, brought accolades to writer FLAXMAN LOEW and artist GONZALEZ!

"Fleur may rival VAMPI!"

I want to thank you for putting out all the Warren magazines. Each one is a great achievement in adult graphics and storytelling. But I have a question concerning VAMPIRELLA.

Why does she wear the same costume issue after issue? Our girl looked ravishing in #33, with a gown and a different hair style. Please have more of that!

JOHN CRANE
Willingboro, N.J.

Flaxman Loew's VAMPIRELLA stories have a dull similarity to each other, except for different scenery and supporting characters. I hardly have to read beyond the first page because I already know what will happen. In addition, he overuses words like cosmic, passion and delicious. VAMPI herself is often superfluous, contributing only bits of dialogue and some blood-drawing.

However, I liked his story in #33, especially the ending. I would like to see Flaxman Loew use his talents on non-VAMPIRELLA stories, for he can write a good story, but still can't handle VAMPIRELLA and Pendragon's characters the way they should be.

ANN NICHOLS
Williamsport, Md.

Just picked up VAMPI #34 and I have a couple of things to point out.

The cover is clever and well done, though it could have been more detailed. The full length of our lovely VAMPIRELLA was great, except that the face had lost some of the cool, mysterious that makes VAMPI so sensuous. But look at the hair in the other! True talent! Not really Enrich at his best, but Enrich nonetheless.

I was skeptical as to whether I should even open to the letters page this issue. Once again the main talk was of a full length saga for VAMPIRELLA. It seems that once a topic is brought up, it stays around for months afterward. I realize that a longer story would be a strain on artist Jose Gonzales and the writer, but if it were held back one or two months it might be worth it.

How about seeing Dracula again? He's long since left the pages of EERIE and would be welcomed with open arms by most.

DANNY SCONTRAS
Dixons, Maine

At least one of your wishes will be granted, Danno. A new Dracula series will be coming your way soon.

I just bought VAMPI #33 and the art is getting better and better! The color story was great, and Rich Corben made the best possible use of it!

EDWARD REICHENBACH
Paris, France

I have just finished reading VAMPIRELLA #33. I would like to see Pantha dropped, and the VAMPI stories made longer. Aerleen's art is good, but the stories are only fair.

"Sultana's Revenge" was excellent. What better punishment could be suffered by someone like the Sultana than to become so obese. I am glad to see that VAMPIRELLA is not being treated as just another she-vampire, but as a unique and human creature.

KURT KALISH
Thousand Oaks, Calif.

Your covers are the most appealing on the stands because of talented men like Sanjulian and Enrich.

Warren magazies never cease to fill me with awe at the sheer brilliance they unfold with each passing issue.

With VAMPIRELLA #30, you've had a steady roll call of stellar talents: Rich Corben, Frank Frazetta, Jeff Jones.

Warren gives us dazzling color, nice pastel overlayed letters pages, informative articles, excellent editorials. The covers are top notch and the art and stories are usually just as good! What more could anyone ask?

ANTHONY DALEY
Chicago, Ill.

Issue #34 was great, virtually exploding with brilliant story and art.

In particular I enjoyed "The Black and White Vacuum Blues" story by Doug Moench and Eddie Marotto. The story was relevant and presented with depth and insight. A clown could not have been a better choice for a lead character. Bill DuBay's color also added a great deal to the story.

"Miranda" was equally nice, and the story particularly touching... and it seems like you've got a winner on your hands with Fleur!

How about bringing back some of the artists who helped make VAMPIRELLA great in the past? People such as Billy Graham and Neal Adams would be a welcome sight in your pages once again, and possibly some newcomers like Jim Starlin.

Anyway, keep up the good work!

L. DIETRICH ADDONIS
St. Croix



Readers hail Fleur as the most exciting new creation since VAMPIRELLA! John Jackson and Ramon Torrents are already putting their awesome talents to more exciting episodes of this wonderful, whimsical witch!

Being an aspiring artist and a lover of comic art, I always look to Warren for originality, creativity, and sheer beauty. However, I am inclined to agree with Gary Kimber's letter in VAMPI saying that the early issues of CREEPY and EERIE are your most outstanding.

I find the work of three of your present artists to be totally inspiring: Frank Frazetta, Fernando Fernandez, and Rich Corben. I for one feel that Corben's bizarrely bizarre style is deserving of better stories than you have been giving him... stories that better put to use his bizarre style.

DICK BOND
Dayton, Ohio

From the Spain of Legend? In VAMPIRELLA #34 was outstanding! The story and art were both well executed, and the ending has twists that made it fresh, unpredictable, and worthwhile. Fleur is already a rival for VAMPIRELLA.

But what happened to Pantha? I'd still like to know how she manages to keep her pants on when all else fails! The "cat" certainly doesn't wear them, so why begumantic when she reverts back to her human self?

RICK MEISTER
Maynard, Mass.

Pantha isn't gone, Rick. She'll be alternating with Fleur for a backup spot in my magazine.

SUMMER'S HERE! GET INTO THE SWIM OF THINGS!

And you wouldn't want to see our hammed heroines lonely, would you? You can start by sending me some mail to help her keep her cool! Don't let VAMPI's mailbox suffer a dry spell! Send your comments and suggestions right away, to:

SCARLET LETTERS
c/o Warren Publishing Co.
145 East 32nd Street
New York, NY 10016



VAMPI'S VAULT

THE STORY AND SOUL OF FERNANDO FERNANDEZ THE MAN WHO IS WHAT HE DRAWS



I was asked for the story of my life, that Warren Publishing might run a brief biography," wrote Fernando Fernandez, one of our most illustrious artists, "and I wrote it. But," he continued, "after reading it several times, I realized that they just wasn't my life."

We read the information with interest, but were convinced by Fernando not to run it.

"Any artist's or illustrator's life," he believes, "is just that: his art! The facts, dates, and numbers tell you nothing about the man!" And so, based on this idea, we allowed one of our finest artists free reign to discuss his career.

"Whether the art is 'fine' or whether it is 'commercial,'" he began, "is of little importance to the true creator. What he does care about is his work itself, and how it is a reflection of his inner self."

"A man's art is where he feels...where he breathes. He is driven on, always wanting to improve, to go on exploring the self which he does not understand."

"He keeps looking for this identity, which is as vital a part of him as food and water."

"And this, quite honestly, is not only my story, but that of anyone who has ever sought to create art in any form."

His point is a valid one, which suggests that it is not really important when or where an artist was born, or where he went to school. For art, as nature, eggs on, beyond our control. One can only suspect that this is the way it was meant to be. Without this drive, we would all be content to do second-best.

And, we think, Fernandez's dedication is reflected in his exceptional work!



Nowhere has Fernando's idea of art as a mirror of life been more evident than in the sensitive renderings of "Rendezvous," *Vampirella* #35.

WARREN'S BEST WRITERS AND ARTISTS TEAM TO GIVE YOU A SPECIAL TREAT! ON VAMPI'S FIFTH ANNIVERSARY!

Welcome to the Fifth Anniversary issue of *VAMPIRELLA*. As you will see on the pages that follow, we've tried our best to make the contents of this issue appropriate to the special occasion. For example, we feature this month's two full-color sections, showcasing the masters of illustrated fantasy. There is Fernando Fernandez's stunning vision of the future, where children have indeed inhabited the earth...and Jose Basco's equally unnerving tale about monstrous mannequins.

In addition, we again honor many readers' requests to feature a new artist on *VAMPIRELLA*. Phasmian Lee and Jess Ortiz recount one of the most startling surprises in the continuing adventures of our blood-queen. Plus...four more exciting tales of chilling horror and haunting mystery!

But this is only fitting that our readers share in this anniversary celebration, since it is they who have made *VAMPIRELLA* one of the most successful creations in comicdom! And with the years behind us, we are still only beginning...

In the forthcoming months, there will be more surprises, more amazing adventures with Vampi, the mysterious Fleur, and the feline huntress Pantha...plus the long-awaited return of Count Dracula to these pages!

Read issue #15—a special retrospective of *VAMPIRELLA*'s first 15! But first...enjoy the thrills of this unique Fifth Anniversary issue!

THE CREATIVE MAN DUBE: INSIDE A BIG CITY EDITOR

Commercial art artists...or so they say. They being the perils, those creators who paint and draw for their own satisfaction alone. But artists must eat, and this hobby dictates that one must sell his talents to those who will buy. This situation, quite obviously, does not permit a creative individual his fullest and most rewarding means of expression. He must please the masses first and his own sense of aesthetics second. And, to an extent, this situation applies to the creative people behind the Warren Magazines. In this column, we will chip away the veneer of commercialism and find out what sort of work our people most like to do. What are their projects and dreams...ideas and ideals. In the future, we'll feature Leo Summers, Esteban Maroto, Paul Rinaldi, and others, for this initial installment, it seemed only proper to begin with our own resident Creator.



To his intimates, William Bryan Dube is called nothing more imposing than 'Dube.' He can write and he can draw. You've seen his work within these pages.

Ideally, the Warren editor of 2 years standing would like nothing better than to have a cottage in Maine, raise enough food to satiate his family's appetite, and spend the rest of the time drawing a comic strip of his own invention.

Dube's comic strip work is much unlike his Warren art. And it's all the more touching in that Dube resembles the caricatures he creates.

So, for the masochistic, here is a sample of work that may some day soon grace your daily newspaper...The type of work Dube likes to do.



VAMPIRELLA

AS THE SAGA OF THE DELICIOUS DRACULONIAN CONTINUES TO UNFOLD, CERTAIN MYSTERIES BECOME MORE CLEAR, OTHERS REMAIN...

WHY, NO AGH, IS THE APPETIZABLE VAMPIRELLA STUCK WITH PENDRAGON, THAT VERRRRRRRRR ALCOHOLIC WHOSE END IS ONLY TOO PREDICTABLE?

THAT IS A MINOR MYSTERY, AND IT WILL BE RESOLVED WITHIN THESE PAGES. A LARGER QUESTION REMAINS: WHAT LIES BEHIND VAMPIRELLA'S FORMER EXISTENCE ON THE VAMPIRE PLANET DRACULON... AND WHY, WHEN DRACULON DIED, WAS SHE DRAWN TO EARTH?

TO FIND THE ANSWER, WE FOLLOW THE HEROINE FROM DRACULON TO THE ANCIENT CRADLE OF CIVILIZATION THAT LIES AHEAD OF THE NILE... TO EGYPT.

TO MEET...

The VAMPIRE OF THE NILE

I WILL
MAKE YOU
LIKE
MYSELF...
VAMPIRE!

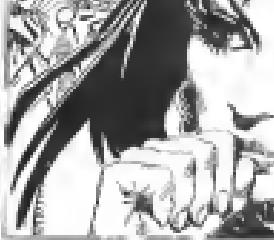


THE LANGUOROUS DELIGHTS OF MODERN-DAY ALEXANDRIA HAVE FALLEN A LITTLE FLAT WITH MARCELLA AND PENNYSON...

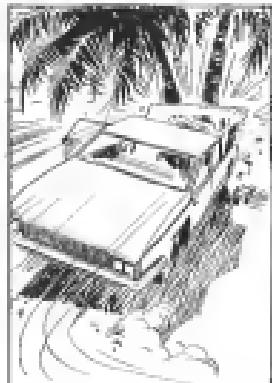


—BUT WHEN THE OWNER OF THE NIGHT CLUB DECAMPS WITH A GREEK STRIPPER AND ALL THE MONEY I TELL MY DAD, THE PREDATOR BACKDOOR HAVE COME TO EGYPT!

SPOKEN WITH
SALVADOR
ESPRESSO
IN DEAR MARY!



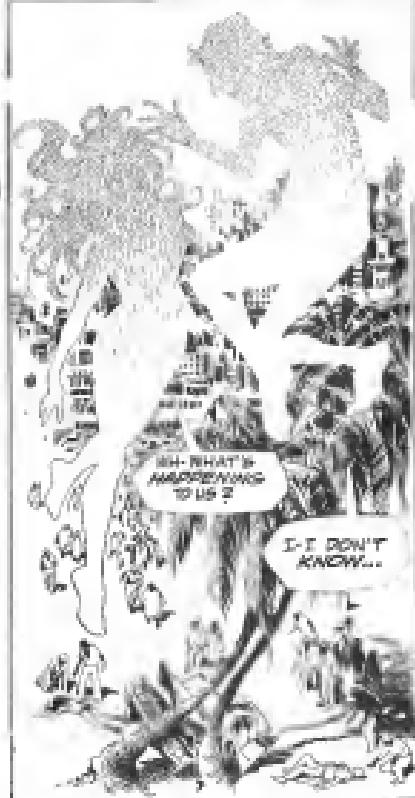
LATER, PENNY, WHO HAS BEEN
MUCH UNHAPPY TOO DRASTICALLY
OF WHAT HE CHOOSED TO DISCOURSE
AS THE DISTILLED ESSENCE OF
CENTRAL ASIA... DRIVES THEM
TO THE ABORTIF AND AGAIN...



THEY EXPERIENCE A WRENCHING ADAPT
OF MATTER AND SPIRIT... AND RISE
TOGETHER, IN THE ASTRAL AIR...

—WHAT'S
HAPPENING
TO US?

I-I DON'T
KNOW...



THEY ARE UNDER THE SAME SKY, THE SAME SEA OF INDIVISIBLUE LIES
UNDER THE TALL TOWERS OF THE ANCIENT CITY... BUT ALL IS CHANGED!

THIS IS NOT THE BOUNT OF ANTIQUITIES... OF RUINS AND DUSTY
MUSEUMS... ALL IS NEW...





THEY GO OUT INTO THE BURNING SUNLIGHT OF THE EGYPTIAN DESERT.

AND HE LIVES OUT HIS DAYS IN THAT HIDEOUS TEMPLE HE HAD BUILT OVER THERE... WHERE I WANT WHAT HIM TONIGHT?

WHAT DOES PTOLEMY DO IN THAT HATEFUL PLACE? WHAT HORRORS AWAITS ME THERE TONIGHT?

MY QUEEN, HE CLAIMS THAT THE TEMPLES DEDICATED TO AMUNRAH! BUT I'M PRETTY SURE, IF THE ROBES SUN-GOD KNEW HALF OF WHAT HAPPENED IN THESE HELL-PLAZA, THE PHOENIX LAND OF EGYPT WOULD TURN INTO THE HELL!

I MUST GO THERE ALONE... AND FACE WHAT-EVER HIDEOUS FATE AWAITS ME!



THE SHRIEKING WINDS OF NIGHT ARE WRAPPED AROUND THE LAND OF THE FIVE CROWNS. THE DARK QUEEN, HIDING IN A CLOISTER, PREDICATES TO HER. APPROPRIATELY, THE DREADFUL TORMOLE OF HER BROTHER-HUSBAND, POLYKORYT!



PRAYERS OF AN ENTHRALLED CULT GREET HER. HARRISON HITS SILENTLY, HASTENING WITH FETTERS OF DISMAYED GOLD...



IN SILENCE, SHE IS BORNE INTO A ROCK-HEAVEN SEPULCHRE AND SHACKLED TO A SOFT COLDNESS.

WHAT...WHAT IS GOING TO HAPPEN TO ME?

THIS NIGHT, O QUEEN, YOU WILL TRULY BECOME THE SPORE OF YOUR LORD AND MASTER, THE VAMPIRE-KING OF THE HILLS!

ROSEBERRY WILL BOTH LAUD AND DESILE MY NAME AS THAT OF THE TRUE BEGETTER OF MAMMOTH. THIS IS MY DARK RELIGION, O MY QUEEN! THIS IS THE CULT THAT SHALL CAST DOWN EVEN AMARAKA HIMSELF! NOW I WILL DRENCE MYSELF ON YOUR BLOOD...

AS SHE WATCHES ALONG THE HAMMOMA-RIVER RIVES FROM HIS TOWER,



IT IS FROM THIS TIME THAT THE LEGEND OF GLEDFATHER, GUARDIAN OF OLD RALEIGH, TRULY BEGAN; SONGS, THE INGENUOUS CHILD, IN HER PLACE, THE TIMELESS GUARDIANESS WHOM NO ONE CAN FORGET, AND CUSTOM STALE...



1980, ONE TOWER AND OTHER PARTS AT 1000', 1980
1984/1985 SURVEYED, 1985/1986 TOWER DRAINED &
REINFORCED, 1986 SURVEYED, 1987 SURVEYED



*THE BEGINNING OF THE END COMES WITH THE
THREE LITTLE LADIES. LADY ANTHONY,
ANTHONY, AS SHE SITS IN HER
GARNISHED GARDEN. ONE LOOK, AND
ANTHONY IS HER SLAVE FOR
ETERNITY.*



THEY WERE NOT AS ONE OF THE FIVE, WHO
WERE A MORALLY SHORT-SIGHTED BANGLADESHI. BUT
ETERNITY WAS IN THEIR LIPS AND EYES, AND ELEVEN
ON THEIR BREASTS.



TEMPTATION IS NEVER
FAR FROM THE
BLOOD-LUSTING MIND
OF THE BEAUTIFUL
KARMAQUEEN...

WHILE HE
SLEEPS, I'LL
SCREE ANUBIS...
NOT ENOUGH
TO MURDER...

YOU ARE
RESTLESS,
MY LOVE...

NOT
RESTLESS...

...THIRSTY!

KARMA LAVISHES GIFTS UPON
HER KINGDOMS AND PROVINCES!
BUT IT'S THE LITTLE THINGS THAT
MEAN A LOT TO A WOMAN...

HE'S BEEN TRAINED TO TEAR THE
THROAT OUT OF ANY SLAVE
WHO SHOWS THE
LEAST SIGNS OF
MISBEHAVING!

HE'S A
CHARLIE
I SHALL
CALL HIM
ANUBIS!

YOU AND I
UNDERSTAND
EACH OTHER, MY
ANUBIS!

THE ELEMENTS OF TRAGEDY ARE ALREADY GATHERED TOGETHER !
IT NEEDS ONLY THE SPARK TO IGNITE THEM. IT HAPPENS
DURING A FEAST...

OOOPS !
SORRY, O MY
QUEEN !

CLUNKY
DEAL !

ANUENS !



KILL MY
PET !

NO !

THE CURSED INCUBUS
FEEPS AL BENEATH
QUESTING FOR THE
SOFTNESS OF THE
SLAVE'S THROAT... BUT
EGYPT'S QUEEN
HAS SPRUNG
FORWARD...



MUCH ANTHONY'S TIME-
LESS LOVE TURNS TO
HORROR AND
REVILION !



YOU ARE
AN OBSCURITY
OF EVIL !
YOU ARE
DEATH IN ITS
MOST
HIDEOUS
FORM !





MARK ANTONY THROWS HIMSELF UPON HIS
SWORD IN THE TIME-HONORED
ROMAN FASHION!



ROMAINE,
WAVINASH LOST ITS
QUINTESCENT AND IS
SCREAMED BY THE PAPER
PASSION OF GRIEF.
SHE FILLED THE
CORPSE TO HERE, HERE,
LESS OF THE HEADY
SCENT OF THE
FRESH-SHEP
BLOOD...



WAIT
AND
SEE!



THEY GATE DOWN UPON THE SLEEPING COUNTRY-QUEEN OF THE VAMPIRE KING OF EGYPT.

"I AM SOLENTY, BUT, MY CHILD, HE LOOKS AS OLD AS TIME!"

"HE HAS TAKEN UPON HIMSELF AN ETERNITY OF EVIL!"

IT IS HER HAND THAT DRIVES HOME THE POINTED SABRE!



THEN THERE IS A BURST OF ASTRAL LIGHT!

A VOICE OF THUNDER ROLLED THROUGH THE VAULTED SKY-CHAMBER!

THE QUEEN OF KINGS AND HER SLAVES CONCENTRATE THEMSELVES...

SO PERISH ALL WHO TURN THEIR FACES FROM THE SUN AND GAZE UPON THE PLACES OF DARKNESS!





THE SPIRIT OF SHIP WHO HAD BEEN CLEOPATRA,
DAUGHTER OF THE PHARAOH, DESCENDANT OF
ALEXANDER, QUEEN OF ALEXANDRIA, QUEEN OF
KINGS, ESCAPED FROM HER EARTHLY BODY AND
DRAWS ACROSS THE WIND OF ETERNITY,
ACROSS THE TRANSCENDENT WATERS OF SPACE,
AND TRAVELS TO A
NEW LIFE ON A
DISTANT WORLD...



THERE IS IRREVERSIBILITY. NOW IS THE INSTANT
IN WHICH SHE LIVES. NOW SHE IS VAMPIRELLA,
THE GIRL WHO CAME FROM SPACELAND... THE
MISTY CLOUD. SHE HAS THE TASTE OF ETHER
IN HER NOSTRILS. SHE OPENS HER EYES...



PROLOGUE

AFTER THAT WONDERFUL MORNING, NO ONE HAD TO EAT STICKY, LUMPY CEREAL BECAUSE IT WAS "GOOD" FOR THEM.



... SHE WOULD NEVER BE PUNISHED THE WAY THEY HAD PUNISHED HER. NO, NEVER, NEVER. DOLLY WAS GOING TO BE JUST AS HAPPY AS EVE WAS...



AFTER THAT WONDERFUL MORNING, NO ONE HAD TO COMB THEIR HAIR, OR BRUSH THEIR TEETH, OR BE SURE THEY WASHED BEHIND THEIR EARS.

AFTER THAT WONDERFUL MORNING, THE WORLD WAS CHANGING FOR THEM. NOW IT WAS AN ENDLESS VACATION. NO MORE SCHOOL, NO MORE BORING HOMEWORK.

NOW EVE HAD LOTS OF TIME FOR FEEDING DOLLY, MORNING, AFTERNOON OR EVENING, ANYTIME OR ALWAYS. BUT IF DOLLY DIDN'T FEEL LIKE EATING...

...AND TONY WHO NO LONGER HAD TO SUFFER HIS PARENTS' EVER-CONSTANT FIGHTING...

...AND MAGGIE WHO GOT TO THROW AWAY THOSE AWFUL BRACES THE DENTIST MADE HER WEAR.



YES, IT REALLY WAS A WONDERFUL MORNING.



NOW CRICKETS COULD BE HEARD WHERE BEFORE THERE WAS ONLY THE ANGRY DIN OF TRAFFIC. NOW BUTTERFLIES, LONG DRIVEN BY DEADLY EXHAUST FUMES RETURNED TO FLUTTER ABOVE NEW FLOWERS AND GREENERY.



NOW BIRDS WHEELED IN A CLEAR SKY...



...UNPAINTED BY THE DARK SMEAR OF INDUSTRIAL SMOKE...



...VOID OF THE CHOKING SMELL, THE BITTER STING OF POLLUTION...



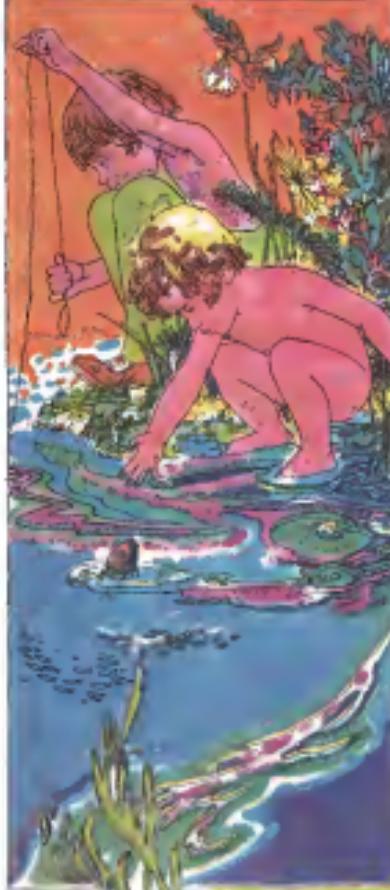
...FREE EVEN OF THE GRIM SHADOW OF POSSIBLE NUCLEAR HOLOCAUST.



FOR THESE AND A HUNDRED OTHER REASONS, THIS, LIKE ALL MORNINGS NOW, WAS...

A WONDERFUL MORNING!

THE RIVERS AND STREAMS RAN
CLEAN, BUBBLED BRIGHTLY,
WITHOUT THE GREASE, THE SILT,
THE WASTE, FISH CAME AGAIN.



THE SEA ONCE MORE WAS TO PLAY IN, TO FROLIC
HAPPILY. OIL SLICKS DID NOT DARKEN THE WAVES,
GARBAGE DID NOT COVER THE SPARKLING BEACHES.



WHAT A
WONDERFUL
MORNING...

...WITHOUT
THEM.





NOW, EVERYBODY RUN. RAN THROUGH THIS WONDERFUL MORNING.

SO MANY YEARS OF HOPE
HAD PASSED UNFULFILLED,
BUT NOW, THEY WERE FIN-
ALLY GETTING IT... A NEW
HUMANITY, FULL OF LOVE,

WITHOUT
AMBITION...
WITHOUT
WAR...

WITHOUT SEX...



WITHOUT HATE...
WITHOUT GRUDGES...



WITHOUT VIOLENCE...

FASTER,
FASTER! WE'RE
CLOSING IN!

HE'S
TIRING!
JUST A
LITTLE
MORE...

THEN
WE'LL
HAVE
HIM!



THE
CYCLOPEAN
EYE IN ITS
FORMICA CASE,
ASSASSIN OF
CHILDHOOD
IMAGINATION...

...LAY MUTE
AND BLIND,
IT WAS NOT
NECESSARY TO
SPEND HOURS
AND HOURS IN
FRONT OF IT...

...AVOIDING
REALITY...



...BECAUSE
REALITY WAS
WONDERFUL!

EXCEPT...

THERE
WAS STILL
THE LAST
ONE.







HE SCREAMED LIKE ALL THE OTHERS. HE WOULD DIE, EYES STARING IN *DISBELIEF* LIKE ALL THE OTHERS. AS ALWAYS, THE GROWN-UPS JUST DIDN'T UNDERSTAND...





THERE WAS NO ALTERNATIVE.



CHILDREN HAD TO DO IT TO SAVE THE WORLD... THEIR WORLD.



THE LAST ECHO OF THE LAST ADULT ON EARTH FADED INTO NOTHINGNESS.



AFTER THIS DAY, THE WORLD WOULD KNOW ONLY THE SOUND OF CHILDREN LAUGHING...

AND THEY WOULD NEVER PERMIT THE ADULTS TO COME AGAIN...

NEVER
NEVER
NEVER
NEVER
NEVER
NEVER

THE TARA OF DAGON!

ARKHAM
MUSEUM

WE MEET AGAIN, SIMON PEPPER, WITH HOPES HIGH THIS TIME FOR MUTUAL AGREEMENT ON ALL ASPECTS OF OUR DISPUTE.

THE POLICE OF ARKHAM, MASSACHUSETTS, STILL TALK ABOUT THAT DAY IN 1931, A DAY THAT BEGAN WITH A VISIT TO THE LOCAL MUSEUM...A VISITOR THE CURATOR FOUND ALL TOO FAMILIAR...

THE ONLY SATISFACTORIED AGREEMENT I WANT IS THE CONCLUSION OF YOUR BOTHERSOME VISITS. THE OBJECT YOU DESIRE IS SIMPLY NOT FOR SALE.

THE RITUAL TARA OF THE PRIESTS OF DAGON... OF WHICH I AM ONE!

IT MAY HAVE BEEN
TOWERS AT ONE TIME,
BUT I GOT IT QUITE
LEGALLY FROM ONE
OF THOSE FEDERAL
AGENTS WHO RAIDED
INNERMOUTH BACK
IN '28.

RAIDED, YOU SAY?
DON'T YOU MEAN INVADED,
FEDERALLY, POLLAGED...
ALL ON THE BASIS OF
UNSUBSTANTIATED TALES
OF FORTUNE AND
MURDER?

UNSUBSTANTIATED
PERHAPS... BUT
NOT UNTRUE!



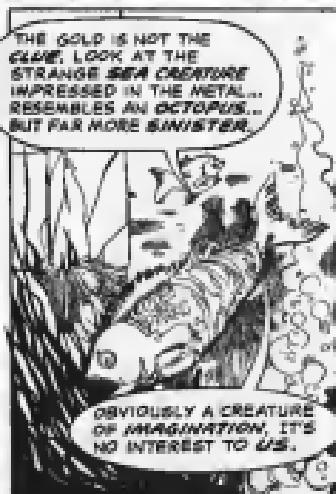
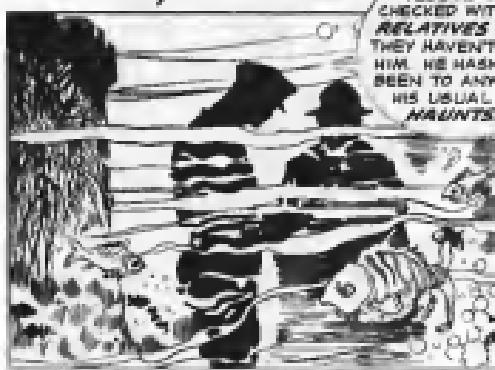








TIME PASSED, WHEN THE MUSEUM FAILED TO OPEN THE NEXT DAY, THE AUTHORITIES INVESTIGATED.



LAST COFFEE MEETING CHRISTINA MCKEEAN DASHING
HAVING IT OUT WITH HUSBAND JIM, THE PRESIDENT OF HER
LATE FATHER'S FIRM!



GOOD TO THE LAST DROP!



YOU DIDN'T MEAN TO DO THIS,
MR. KAVANAUGH. OR DID YOU?
PERHAPS YOU RESENTED HER
YOUTHFUL BEAUTY... AND YOUR
PREMATURE AGE... JUST
ENOUGH...

I HATE HIM...
BILL WRIGHT... LOUSY
LITTLE V.I. IN PRODUCT
IMPROVEMENT...

YES! SOMETHING HAPPENED
THAT MORNING... THAT MORNING
YOUR THOUGHTS NOW
TURN BACK TO...

THAT MORNING YOU DISCOVERED
WRIGHT AND YOUR WIFE
ALONE IN MY OFFICE!

CHRISTINA! I'D SUSPECTED
SHE WAS HAVING
SOMETHING
LATELY...

BUT LAUGHED
MY SUSPICIONS OFF
AS IRRELEVANT... MY
OWN INSANE
JEALOUSY! BUT
NONE...

HURT ENRAGED, YOU QUIETLY
RETURNED TO YOUR OFFICE,
PLANNING YOUR NEXT MOVE...
FAILING TO HEAR CHRISTINA
SAY...

I DON'T
CARE IF YOU DO
SO AHEAD WITH IT
BILL! I WON'T
DO IT!?

I... I'M SORRY
I NEVER GOT
INVOLVED WITH
YOU IN THE FIRST
PLACE!

YOU BUSHED YOURSELF WITH
YOUR DUTIES AS PRESIDENT
OF MILLER FOODS... SUCH
AS THE EXHIBIT FOR
GOURMET COFFEE IN THE
PREMIER MUSEUM...

IT'S A GIANT BOOK-
UP OF THE MEDIUM
PUMPS WE USE TO
FREEZE-DRY COFFEE,
MR. KAVANAUGH! AND
IT WORKS!*

THE SCHOOL KIDS WHO
COME THROUGH HERE TO
LEARN HOW COFFEE IS
MADE WILL LOVE IT!

VERY GOOD,
PELUSH! EXCELLENT!

AT HOME, YOUR WIFE SHOWED
RESTLESS, WATCHING YOU.
YOUR MOUTH AS SLACK AND
SILENT AS THE COFFEE
SIPPED EACH MORNING...

HE HASN'T SPOKEN
TO ME ALL WEEK!
HE MUST KNOW
SOMETHING! I'M
SURE OF IT!





YOU PLACE THE CHUNKS OF FROZEN FLESH AND BONES INTO THE GIANT VACUUM PUMP'S BELL-JAR...

...AND WHAT REMAINS IN THE BOTTOM OF THE GIANT BELL-JAR IS THE FERT LAST OF CHRISTINA...

VACUUMM PPP!

...AND ACTIVATE IT!

...HER FROZEN-DRYED REMAINS!

...WHICH YOU BAGHER UP INTO A JAR...

GOTTA HURRY HOME! I HAVE AN APPOINTMENT THIS AFTERNOON... WITH A VERY, VERY SWEET REVENGE!

THAT AFTERNOON YOU MAKE THE NECESSARY PHONE-CALL... AND THEN...

...IN AN HOUR LATER...

INVITING BILL RUMSDEN OVER HERE FOR COFFEE WAS A MASTER STROKE...

HE'LL BE MORTIFIED TO LEARN WHAT HE'S DRAWN INTO... THAT IS IF I DECIDE TO TELL HIM. HEE HEE, HEH!

HERE YOU GO, WRIGHT/HAVE A CUP OF COFFEE!

THANK YOU, MR. RUMSDEN!

I MUST SAY YOUR INVITATION WAS A.. SURPRISE! DID YOU, UH.. WANT ANYTHING IN PARTICULAR?

WRIGHT... YOU'RE OUR YOUNGEST UP-AND-COMING **EXECUTIVE**!
YOU'RE YOUNG, AND **BRIGHT**! WELL, I HAVE A TERRIBLE PROBLEM.
I THOUGHT YOU'D HELP ME SOLVE!

I'LL DO WHAT I CAN, SIR!

...AS HE UNWITTINGLY REVERSES THE TRAY... SWAYING THE CUP WITH CHRISTINA'S PRESSED REMAINS, SO THAT HE CAN GET AT THE SUGAR.

CHARLIE ROSENTHAL, JIM KAVANAGH,
AND BY TOM WRIGHT...

IT'S MY WIFE... SHE'S BEEN MISSING FOR TWO DAYS!

ANSWER?

I'M AFRAID I'M GOING TO HAVE TO CALL THE POLICE!

...AND SUDDENLY, JIM, YOU NOTICE THE SWITCH!

YES! IT'S VERY STRANGE! NONE OF HER THINGS ARE SIGNIFICANT! SHE JUST... SHE...

MY GOD! HE... HE SHATTERED CUPS! INSTEAD OF MY OWN PERIOD, I'VE BEEN DRINKING THAT FREEZE-DRI... GAAAKK!

IT IS THEN THAT YOU FEEL THE STIRRINGS IN YOUR GUT, JIM... THE SICKNESS, NOT MERELY REVULSION AT THE THOUGHT OF WHAT YOU'VE DRUNK, BUT SOMETHING ELSE.

ARE YOU ALL RIGHT, SIR?

T-YES... JUST A LITTLE WEAK... THE STRAIN... OF THE PAST FEW DAYS... HAS BEEN EXHAUSTING!

THERE'S A BOTTLE, OF SLOW RELEASE ON THE SHELF OVER THE SHAWL... BRING THEM TO ME, WOULD YOU?

FEEL... NOW... BUT IT'S A GOOD STRETCH... TO GET HIM... OUT OF THE ROOM...

THAT'S RIGHT, JIM... AS SOON AS WRIGHT LEAVES THE ROOM...

I'LL JUST SWITCH THESE AROUND AGAIN... SO HE GETS HIS JUST... COMPENSATION!



I'D SOONER KILL
MYSELF THAN PAY YOUR
BLOOD-MONEY!

SO OF
COURSE, I NEVER
WENT TO YOU - I'D
LOSE MY JOB.
I GAVE YOU KNOW
THAT... I CHOKE!

HEY, I DON'T
FEEL... I GULP!
TOO WELL!

I CHOKE?
YOU TOO?

SHE SAID...
SHE'D SOONER
KILL HERSELF,
YOU SAID?

IT IS WITH CREEPING, CONSUMMATE HORROR, THAT
YOU SLOWLY REALIZE, JIM Kavanagh...AS YOUR
KNEES BUCKLE AND YOU AND YOUR FORMER
REAL SINK TO THE FLOOR...

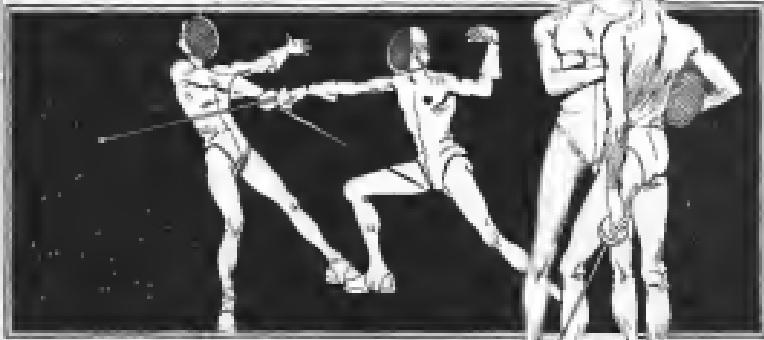
AAAARRRRK!

IN THE MINUTES BEFORE
YOU STRUCK YOUR FATAL
BLow, POOR, FRIGHTENED,
PRUDENTIAL INSURANCE
MADE GOOD HER INSURAT-

...BY TAKING POISON... THE POISON
THAT REMAINED IN HER SYSTEM...
FOR YOU AND YOUNG BILL WRIGHT TO
DRAW!

TEENAGE... COLD
HEAVY OPPRESSIVE
IT HUNG IN THE AIR
LIKE A THICK FOG,
BROKEN ONLY BY THE
CLASH OF STEEL
BLADES

TO THOSE OF US WHO
DREW UP IN
WINGLOW'S FERRY,
THESE SOUNDS WERE
FAMILIAR WEDNES-
DAY NIGHT FENCING
SEMINARS HAD BE-
COME A SORT OF
PUBERTY JUNTE
WHICH STUDENTS OF
BOTH SEXES HAD TO
ENDURE AS PART OF
THE HIGH SCHOOL
CURRICULUM.



HEY MIKE! I WANTED STEPHANIE
SUPPOSED TO MEET YOU HERE
TODAY! I THOUGHT YOU WERE
TAKING HER TO THE ANSWERS
AFTER CLASS!



THE CLANGOR OF STEEL, GREW LOUDER, FASTER! THE CONTEST BUILT TO
FEVERED INTENSITY! EVEN IN A SMALL TOWN LIKE THIS, THE DESIRE FOR
COMPETITIVE MASTERY INCITED A CERTAIN SENSE OF PASSION...

PASSION
WHICH REACHED
ITS INEVITABLE
CLIMAX!



I WASN'T IT
ISN'T LIKE HER
TO BE LATE!

PRACTICE CAN NEVER
GO TO WASTE. SOU
THROUGH PRACTICE, WE
REACH PERFECTION...

ALEXANDER DEROTH MAY HAVE BEEN A WHIZ OF A SWORDSMAN, BUT IN MOST OTHER RESPECTS, HE WAS A WASHOUT!

HE CAME TO OUR TOWN ABOUT A MONTH AGO, AFTER THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE REALIZED THERE'D BE A SURPLUS IN THE ANNUAL BUDGET. FENCING HAS ALWAYS BEEN A BIG SPORT IN WINSLOW'S FERRY...

...SO IT SEEMED NATURAL THAT THEY PUT THE MONEY TOWARD HIRING THE BEST INSTRUCTOR THEY COULD BUY! ALEXANDER DEROTH'S REPUTATION MADE HIM THE PRIME CANDIDATE...

...AND HE WASN'T HARD TO BUY!

THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE SAT BACK SMUG AND SELF-SATISFIED BUT THE STUDENTS HAD OTHER SENTIMENTS. THERE WAS SOMETHING DISTASTEFUL ABOUT THE MAN... SOMETHING HIDDEN... SOMETHING EVIL.

SWORDPLAY

CALL IT INTUITION OR CALL IT ADOLESCENT FANTASY, BUT WE RESPECTED HIM LITTLE AND TRUSTED HIM LESS.

SAM ISN'T THAT STEPHANIE'S CAR OVER THERE?

IT'S SURE IS! SO SHE DID COME HERE AFTER ALL... BUT IF SHE'S HERE, WHY DON'T SHE GO TO CLASS?

MAYBE SHE MET SOME HANDSOME FOOTBALL JOCK AND THEY DECIDED TO ELOPE!

I DUNNO. MIKE! ONE GOOD PASS AND YOU MIGHT BE OUT OF THE GAME!

BE SERIOUS, B.I. YOU KNOW AS WELL AS I DO THAT STEPHANIE DOESN'T LIKE FOOTBALL!

IF SHE DIDN'T GO TO THE CHURCH **BASEMENT** WITH THE REST OF US, THEN SHE MUST HAVE GONE TO THE SCHOOL NEXT DOOR!

OTHERWISE SHE WOULD HAVE TAKEN HER CAR!

I DON'T THINK WE SHOULD BE PROWLING AROUND LIKE THIS! IF MR. JENKINS FINDS US IN THE SCHOOL AFTER HOURS, HE'LL PROBABLY CALL THE POLICE!

MAYBE YOU DON'T MIND GOING THROUGH THAT HASSLE, BUT I'M **ALREADY ON PROBATION!**

NEXT DOOR IN THE CHURCH **BASEMENT**, THE SEMINAR CONTINUED AS USUAL. B.J. AND I WERE BEGINNING TO WISH WE HAD STAYED THERE...

IF WE HAD, WE MIGHT HAVE SEEN ALEXANDER DERTH **EARL**, WHICH WAS A **RARE** OCCURRENCE IN ITSELF, BUT EVEN **AMONG** TO OUR LIKING WOULD HAVE BEEN THE **EARL** WHO ELOCTED THE RESPONSE...

YOU'RE NEW IN MY CLASS, AREN'T YOU? I'M SURE I WOULD HAVE REMEMBERED SUCH A **LOVELY FACE!**

YES...MY NAME'S **BRUNA HAWLEY**! I'VE JUST MOVED HERE FROM THE **MIDWEST!**

BY DAY WINGLOW'S **FERRY HIGH SCHOOL** IS ALIVE WITH THE SOUND OF HURRIED FEET SCUFFLING THROUGH ITS CORRIDORS, BUT BY NIGHT, EACH SINGLE STEP ECHOES HOLLOWLY AND SEEMS TO LINGER, WAITING FOR THE **MEAT**. AFTER A WHILE, YOU **WAIT** FOR THAT SOUND... **LOOK FORWARD** TO IT...

...BECAUSE THE **SILENCE** IS **MADDENING!**



HEY B.J., HOW ARE WE GONNA FIND STEPHANIE WHEN I CAN'T EVEN SEE YOU...?

...AND YOU'RE ABOUT A FOOT AWAY!

EASY MIKE! I BROUGHT A FLASHLIGHT...

BUT IT'S SO DARK IN HERE I CAN'T EVEN FIND THAT!

THEY HAD ALL SEEN THE GLINT IN MR. DEROOTH'S EYES BEFORE.

IT APPEARED WHEN HIS THOUGHTS WERE ON THE GRACEFUL, FEMININE FLESH... EYES THAT SPOKE OF LUST AND HIDDEN MACHINES...

YOU HANDLE YOURSELF WELL,
BRENDA!



WITH A LITTLE CLOSE TRAINING... AND PERSONAL ATTENTION... YOU COULD BE ONE OF MY BEST PUPILS!

SORRY, MR. DEROOTH! I'VE HEARD ABOUT YOUR CLOSE TRAINING WITH FEMALE STUDENTS!

I'LL JUST STICK TO THE WEDNESDAY NIGHT CLASSES, THANK YOU!



A PITY! I HAVE OTHER WEAPONS IN MY HOME WHICH YOU MIGHT FIND INTERESTING! IF YOU COULD HANDLE THOSE AS WELL AS YOU HANDLE THAT SWORD, IT COULD PROVE... STIMULATING!

I'M AFRAID NOT! I LIKE TO CHOOSE MY OWN WEAPONS!



DEEPER AND DEEPER WE PENETRATED THE DARKENED SCHOOL. ITS HALLS SEEMED LIKE ANCIENT CHRISTIAN CATACOMBS... MUST LIGHTLESS, SUDENLY WE FROZE!

ALRIGHT! WHAT ARE YOU BOYS DOING IN HERE?



MRS. JENKINS,
IT'S US: MIKE AND B.J.!

I KNOW WHO YOU ARE! I STILL WANT TO KNOW WHY YOU'RE HERE AT THIS HOUR!

WE'RE LOOKIN' FOR STEPHAN STAFFORD! I THOUGHT SHE MIGHT HAVE FORGOTTEN SOMETHING AND CAME BACK HERE TO...

HEY, B.J., LOOK!



IN THE SCHOOL GYMNASIUM, ALL HAD GROWN QUIET. THE MORE PERCEPTIVE STUDENTS HAD NOTICED A SUBLTLE CHANGE IN ALEXANDER DEROOTH, FOLLOWING THE EXCHANGE WITH BRENDA HAILEY.

THE SLOWWEE ONES NOTICED IT LATER, WHEN HE DEMONSTRATED A NEW MANEUVER. HE TOOK WALT KINNEY AN AVERAGE FECOND TO ASSIST HIM... AND IN THREE SWIFT MOVES... WAS MANKINDSHED BY HIS STUDENT! THAT'S WHEN EVERYBODY KNEW SOMETHING WAS WRONG!



IF YOU'D EXCUSE ME,
CLASS I'D LIKE
TO WIPE THE
SWEAT FROM
MY FACE...
I...

SERIOUSLY
WROTCH.

THE BROWN CLOSET SMELLED OF YESTERDAY'S TRASH, BUT IT WAS DARK, RECALLED... PRIVATE. THOSE WERE THE QUALITIES THAT LURED DEROOTH TO ITS CLUTTERED CONFINES.



WHEN DEROOTH CAME BACK TO HIS CLASS, HE MADE HIS CALM, BARDONIC SELF. IT WAS A SHAME, FOR THAT BRIEF MOMENT BEFORE, HE REVELED ALMOST HUMAN AND THE STUDENTS ACTUALLY FELT SOMETHING FOR HIS SHOCKS REVULSION.

BUT THAT MOMENT HAD PASSED...

...AND LIKE MOST FLEETING MOMENTS, IT WOULD NEVER BE RECALLED AGAIN!

ALL RIGHT, CLASS! AGAIN I WILL ATTEMPT TO DEMONSTRATE A DOUBLE-DISENGAGE!

THE TENSION HAD SETTLED AGAIN, BUT THIS TIME IT WAS DIFFERENT. IT WENT BEYOND THE MERE EXCITEMENT OF TWO MEN LOCKED IN SWIFT COMBAT... IT TOUCHED SOMETHING SO COOL, SO FRESH, WITH LATENT MENACE... IT EXCEEDED DESCRIPTION! AND ITS PROMISE LAY SOMEWHERE IN DEROOTH'S EYES!

BRENDA IS GOING TO ASSIST ME IN THIS DEMONSTRATION!

SOMETHING IN HIS TONE OF VOICE... A BARELY PERCEPTEBLE COVER OF EXCITEMENT... SEEMED TO NURSE THE TENSION. HALL FELT AN URGENT DESIRE TO SHOUT... TO STOP THIS THING BEFORE IT BEGAN!

BUT HE DIDN'T!

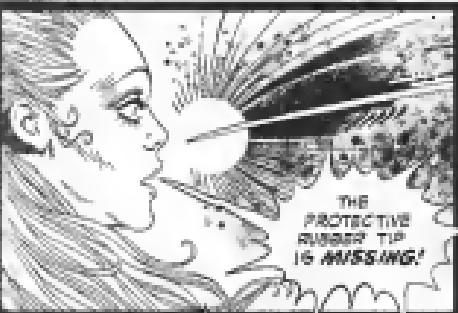
EN GARDE!

SWIFT ROLLS SWIFTER THROUGH THE AIR, PROBING, CARTING, RETREATING. THEIR RUSHING BECAME LIKE A MELLODY, REACHING ITS CRESCEDEO IN A FRENZIED BLUR OF SILVER SOUND. SUDDENLY...

WAIT, MR. DEROOTH! YOUR SWORD...



MEANWHILE, OUR LIGHT BOUGHT OUT THE DARKEST CORNERS OF THE SCHOOL. IT BOUGHT OUT ANSWERS... ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS NEITHER B.J. NOR MR. JENKINS NOR MYSELF DARED TO HUMPER ALONE AND FINALLY IT STOPPED BETHINKING!



TOUCHÉ!

IT FOUND!

STRANGE!



WITH ANSWERS, THERE INEVITABLY COME MORE QUESTIONS!

GOOD LORD... WHAT COULD HAVE DONE SUCH A THING!?

THOSE SCARS ON HER NECK... LIKE SOMETHIN' OUT OF A MONSTER MOVIE!



BRENDA IS SLENDER AND SO
WENT INSTINCTIVELY TO HER
THROAT. SHE FELT THE
WARM BLOOD TRICKLE
SLOWLY GENTLY OVER HER
FLESH... AND FELT THE
EYES OF ALEXANDER
DOROTH UPON HER!

HE GAVE NO THOUGHT TO THE STUDENTS WHO LOOKED ON IN HORROR, PARALYSED BY THEIR FEAR! HE GAVE NO THOUGHT TO THE FACT THAT TOMORROW HE WOULD HAVE TO FLEE WINSLOW'S FERRY...



DOROTH INCHED FORWARD AND THOSE DEMON-EYES BECAME A SHOULDERING INFERNO OF DESIRE... OF LUST... OF BLOOD-THIRST!



HE GAVE NO THOUGHT TO ANYTHING EXCEPT BRENDA'S SOFT, TENDER THROAT, AND THE RICH, RED BLOOD THAT LUBERED GRADUALLY DOWNWARD...



MIKE AND I DIDN'T SEE WHAT HAPPENED TO BRENDA, OF COURSE, BUT NEXT DOOR IN THE SCHOOL, WE EMPATHIZED WITH WHAT SHE MUST HAVE FELT...



...FOR AT THAT MOMENT, THE CORPSE OF STEPHANIE STAFFORD BEGAN TO BREATHE, TO MOVE, TO RISE... TO WAKE UP...



THAT WAS THE END OF OUR WEDNESDAY NIGHT FENCING SEMINARS. THE LAST SESSION HAD DECREASED THE POPULATION OF WINSLOW'S FERRY BY FIVE... FOUR STUDENTS, AND A FENCING INSTRUCTOR WHO VANISHED UNDER MYSTERIOUS CIRCUMSTANCES! AND IN A TOWN THE SIZE OF OURS, SUCH A SITUATION COULD BE CONSIDERED CRITICAL!

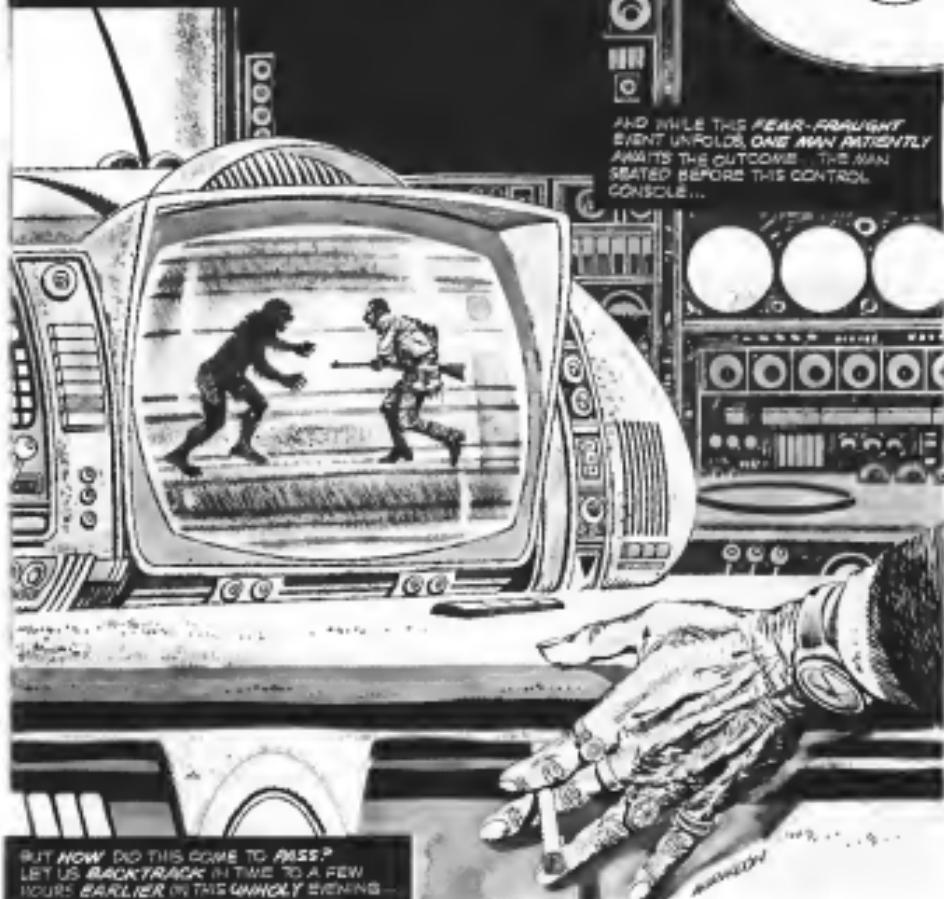
THAT'S WHY B.J. AND I HAVE LEFT WINSLOW'S FERRY... THERE JUST WASN'T ENOUGH TO GO AROUND!



READY FOR A SANGUINE SAGA...
BAND 2 THIS TALE CONCERN'S A MURKY
MILLIONAIRE WHO LIKES TO RAISE A
SPECIAL BREED OF WOLF A HABOR-
HOBBY THAT GUARANTEES...

PREY FOR ME!

AN EVER-FLICKERING VIDEO SCREEN TEMPTS
THE AVERAGE REALITY OF BLOODY BATTLE WITH
SOFT GRAYS AND BLURRED BLOWS...



AND WHILE THIS FEAR-FRAUGHT
EVENT UNFOLDS, ONE MAN PATIENTLY
AVITS THE OUTCOME... THE MAN
SEATED BEFORE THIS CONTROL
CONSOLE...

PUT HOW DID THIS COME TO PASS?
LET US BACKTRACK IN TIME TO A FEW
HOURS EARLIER IN THIS UNHOLY EVENING...

WHEN A GLASSING LIMOUSINE ARRIVED AT
SECLUDED MANSION IN THE HORNED CUCHES.

ANOTHER
ONE, MR.
GUILFORD?

CORRECT, ADAM! /
OUR ILLUSTRIOS
GUEST IS SAMUEL
SMITH, TEXAS OIL
KINGPIN... AND PART-
TIME MURDERER!

SEE THAT HE
IS MADE...
COMFORTABLE!

DINNER HAS BEEN
DEFERRED, MR. SMITH.
PERHAPS IN THE
MEANTIME YOU
WOULD ENJOY
A DRINK?



THERE IS A HAVELESS BLANK SPOT AT
THIS POINT FOR THE BURLY TEXAN.

BUT AFTER A BRIEF INTERLUDE OF CONFUSION,
HE SOONLY AWAKENS TO FIND

MUCH GROCERIES!
THEY'RE DIFFERENT!
IS THIS SOME CANN
PICKIN'?

I CAN
ASSURE YOU
MR. DEAR
SMITH... THIS IS
NO JOKE!



BUT HOW
THOUGHTLESS
OF ME!
INTRODUCTIONS
ARE IN ORDER!

THE RATHER
LARGEST GENTLEMAN
AT YOUR SIDE... IS
MY LOYAL SERVANT,
MAJOR...



I OF COURSE,
AM ALEXANDER
GUARDED THE
BUND...

AND DIRECTLY BEHIND
IS THE INSTRUMENT OF
YOUR IMPENDING DEATH!



I THAT CRITTER...
IT LOOKS LIKE A
WEREWOLF...

ALL WILL BE EXPLAINED
IN DUE TIME! MAJOR! GIVE
OUR ANIMAL HUNTING
FRIEND HIS EQUIPMENT!



THIS RIFLE CONTAINS
ONE SHELL, MR.
SMITH... A SILVER
BULLET. IT WILL BE
YOUR SOLE WEAPON.

I TRUST
YOU ARE
ACQUAINTED
WITH ITS USE.



HE
KNOWS,
MAJOR...

THE WEREWOLF IS EMPLOYED IN THE
SENSELESS DESTRUCTION OF
LIVING THINGS..."

"...HAPLESS CREATURES
THAT OUR HUNCHED GHOST
HAS METABOLICALLY
TRACKED, HUNTED
AND SLAIN!"

"BUT TONIGHT,
MY DEAR SMITH THE
TABLES WILL BE
TURNED...THE
GODS SURELY
ALTERED!"

"TONIGHT, IT
IS THE WOLF-
MAN WHO SHALL
BE HUNTER...
AND YOUNG
THE
PREY!"

"HOWEVER, JUST
TO MAKE THINGS
SLIGHTLY...
INTERESTING--THE
WEREWOLF HAS
BEEN GIVEN YOUR
SCENT!"

"I AM AFRAID,
MY DISTINGUISHED
FRIEND, THE BEAST WILL
ZEALOUSLY STALK
YOU EVERY INCH OF
THE WAY!"

"IT'S ALL QUITE
SIMPLE...YOU
HAVE SIXTY
SECONDS TO
REACH THE
SURROUNDING
ESTATE. FREEDOM
LIES BEYOND..."

"LET ME GO,
GUNPOWD...OR I'LL
BLOW THIS BOY'S
BRAINS OUT!"





NADIR HAS BEEN A LOYAL, TRUSTWORTHY EMPLOYEE... I'LL MISS HIM WHEN YOU FULL THE TRAPDOOR... I WILL RELEASE THE WEREWOLF!

SO A SINGLE BULLET FOR MY SERVANT, OR THE ANGLOPAP THE CHOICE, SIR, IS YOURS!



AND IN CASE YOU'RE HAVING OTHER THOUGHTS... DON'T TRY TO SLAY ME! THIS SPECIALLY-CONSTRUCTED WINDOW IS BULLET-PROOF!

DAWN MAN, GUILEFORD, FUN WIN!



I ALWAYS DO!

YOU HAVE SIXTY SECONDS. STARTING NOW! GOOD LUCK, MR. SMITH, AND GOOD HUNTING!



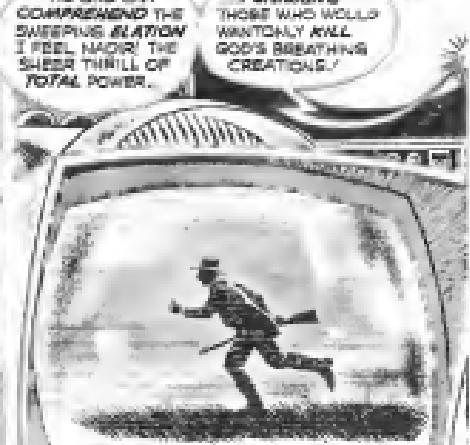
AND ONE MINUTE SWIFTLY FLIES...

RELEASE



HUMMMMMMM

SNAP-CLAP!





I KNOW, MR. GUILFORD!
I HAVE READ IT ON YOUR FACE
MANY TIMES SINCE THAT DAY
YOUR HEALTH SAVED ME
FROM BEING EXECUTED
FOR THE MURDER OF A
PIONEER IN MY
HOMELAND.

BUT WE MUST
HAVE CARE THAT
IN SERVING THE
CAUSE OF A GOD
... WE DO NOT
USURP HIS RIGHFUL
POWER!



MUH SOH IS
ADINN... LUNGS
FEEL ON FIRE! CAN
BARELY TALK
ANOTHER ST...

WAIT!
THAT GARDENER'S
SHACK! -



JUST WHAT
THE DOCTOR
ORDERED! /

BET AN CAN
FIND SOME
BLAZED ROPE...
AN CLIMB THE
BLAZES OUT OF
HERE.

PLASTIC
CLOTHESLINE!



STUFF IS WEAK,
BUT IT'LL HOLD MUH
WEIGHT LONG
ENUFF...





"UNFORTUNATELY, I FEAR THE SHOT DID NOT COME SOON ENOUGH TO PREVENT THE BEAST FROM RE-CHING HIM BEFORE IT DIES."

RAZOR-CRUEL CLAWS CUT DEEP WITH MINDLESS FURY...



...AS AN INFECTIOUS BITE IS ABOUT TO BE INFILTRATED...



...THE ACCURSED BITE OF THE WEREWOLF!



HURRY, PLEASE... BEFORE THE AMIST- SHROUDED MOON REAPPEARS TO TRANSFORM OUR LACERATED GUEST.

INTO A WOLF-LIKE BEING LIKE THE ONE THAT BIT HIM!



BUT THE GIANTIC SERVANT DOES NOT NEED ORDERS TO WORK WITH THE UTMOST SPEED!



HE IS ALL TOO AWARE OF THE TREMBLING FORM AS IT BEGINS TO SHIFT TO SOMETHING OTHER THAN HUMAN... IN THE RE-EMERGING LUNAR LIGHT!

THIS IS ALMOST
BETTER THAN SEEING
THE BEAST RIP APART
TO SHREDS...

DO YOU NOT FIND
IT AMUSING, NADIR? &
STILL ANDRE HUNTERS
SHALL SOON PERISH...
AT MR. SMITH'S
HAND...

NADIR...?

I AM
RIGHT WHERE I
THOUGHT YOU
MIGHT LIKE TO
ROAST YOUR
SUCCESS...

NO.
MR. GUILFORD
TO THE RIGHTS
OF MEN...

...AND GODS.

...AM I THANK
YOU / LET US DRINK
DEEP, NADIR...
...TO LIFE!

W-WHAT...?
NADIR... WHY
DO I...

...SO...
SUDENLY...
FEEL...

...UHHHHH...?



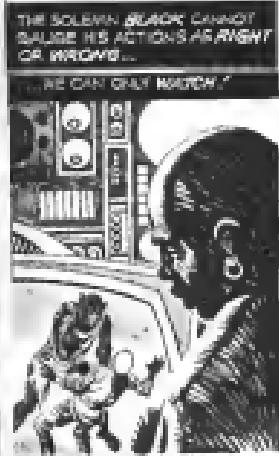
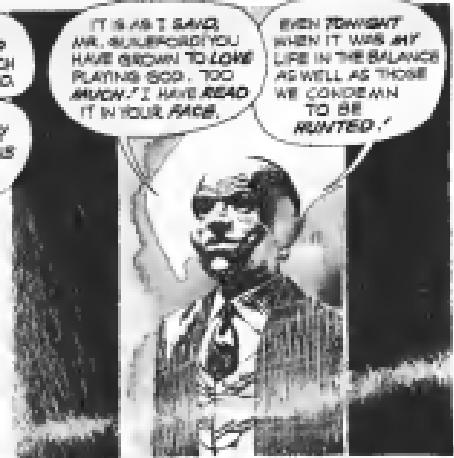
THERE IS AN UNKNOWN LAPSE
IN TIME, UNTIL...

LIHUA! MUST
HAVE SACRED
OUT! TOO MUCH
PRESSURE AND...

THESE
CLOTHES? IT
MAYBE WHAT IS
THE MEANING
OF THIS?

IT IS AS I SAID,
MR. SUPERIOR! YOU
HAVE GROWN TO LOVE
PLAYING GOD. TOO
MUCH! I HAVE READ
IT IN YOUR FACE.

EVEN TONIGHT
WHEN IT WAS JAY
LIFE IN THE BALANCE
AS WELL AS THOSE
WE CONDEMN
TO BE
HUNTED!



PROLOGUE

Since the end of the 17th century this theatre has existed, attracting children and adults alike, all seduced by the art of... the Puppet-Player.



These artists traveled from town to town, drawing fascinated crowds in public squares to witness performances by their colorful creations, living on whatever gratuities the spectators could provide...



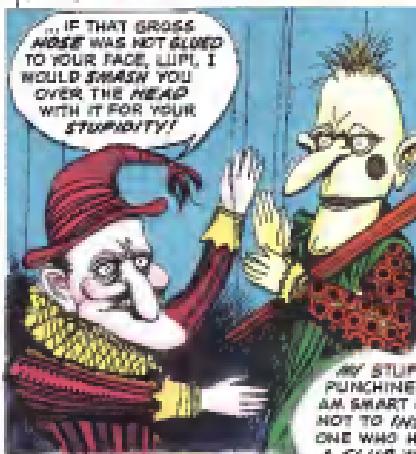
And some provided none at all, finding much that was sinister in the often grotesque puppets, reminded perhaps of folk tales of evil gnomes and halfling creatures...



But most were delighted by what they saw, impressed by the artistry of the men who lovingly scripted all the plays, sewed all the costumes, passionately cared for every aspect of their unique charges...

...GINO MALASPINA MIGHT HAVE BEEN SUCH A MAN, BUT HE DID WHAT HE DID WITHOUT FREEDOM, AND MOST CERTAINLY...WITHOUT LOVE.

FOR SOME TIME NOW, GINO HAD FELT IT BURNING WITHIN HIM... A HATRED OF THIS LIFE, A LONGING TO ESCAPE IT. MORE AND MORE IT SEEMED THE STRINGS BOUND HIM MUCH AS THE FIGURES IN THE OTHER JEW...



THESE BEATINGS GREW MORE VIOLENT EACH PERFORMANCE, BUT SUCH WAS THE MARSHNESS OF THE TIMES, THAT AUDIENCES EASILY ACCEPTED THE CRUEL HUMOR...

INDEED, MANY FOUND APPRE ENJOYMENT.



WELL, DEAR READER, AFTER THAT PROLOGUE, I DON'T BELIEVE WE'LL HAVE TO BEAT YOU OVER THE HEAD WITH THE FACT THAT THIS STORY DEALS WITH MANNEQUINS AND THEIR MANIPULATORS, OR PUPPETS AND THE...

PUPPET-PLAYER!



AFTER THE EVENING SHOW, GINO WOULD RETIRE TO HIS WAGON TO REST, TO THINK THOUGHTS OF THE DAY HE WOULD ABANDON THIS LIFE FOR A BETTER ONE... AND UNDER THE EVER-WATCHFUL GAZE OF THE PUPPETS, TO DRIFT FINALLY INTO UNEASY SLEEPER.



AND THEN, THE DREAM WOULD BEGIN, THE SAME DREAM WHICH LIKE HIS HATRED SEEMED TO GROW IN INTENSITY. THIS NIGHT, IT WAS MORE WILD THAN EVER.

GINO... GINO...
COME, COME! THIS IS NO TIME FOR SLEEPING...
ARISE! YOU HAVE A PERFORMANCE
TO GIVE!

ALMOST IN VOLUNTARILY
HE JERKED TO HIS FEET.



AGONY DROVE ALL THOUGHT FROM
GINO'S MIND AS HE WAS PROPELLED
FORWARD BY THE LAUGHING HORSE.

MERCY,
YOU GROTESQUE
LITTLE MONSTERS...
YOU WILL TEAR ME
APART! THIS CAN-
NOT LAST FOR
ALWAYS... I WILL
AVENGE THEM, IT
WILL BE MY TURN
TO JERK THE
STRINGS!

FOR NOW
IT IS OUR
TURN, GINO!

AND YOU DELAY
THE PERFORMANCE!
MARSH, LITTLE
PUPPET... ON TO
THE THEATER!

GINO SCREAMED AS HE WAS FORCED TO
PARADE AHEAD OF THE GIGGLING, CHIT-
TERING MOB, UNTIL A Sudden, VIOLENT KICK

...LIFTED HIM ONTO
THE STAGE!

AGHHHHH!!!

P-PLEASE...
WHAT DO YOU
EXPECT ME TO DO...?
I DIDN'T MEAN
WHAT I SAID
BEFORE... I...
I...

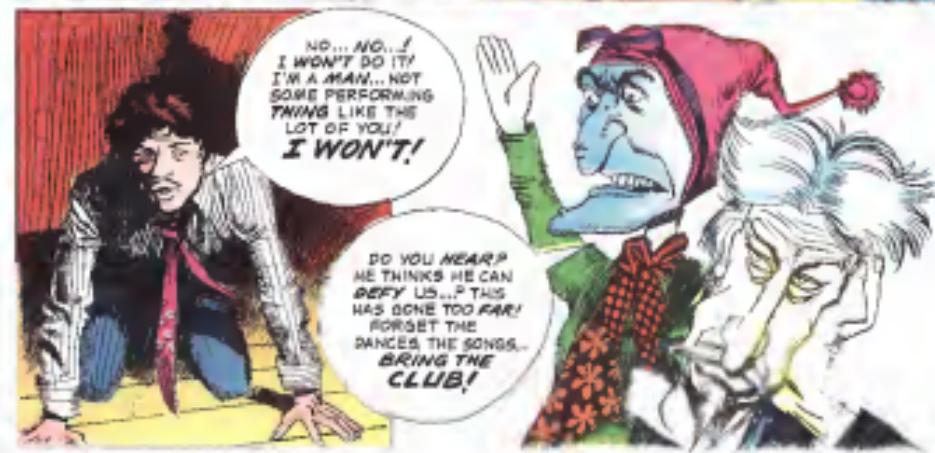
EVEN AS HE SPOKE, GINO KNEW THE ANSWER, EVEN AS THE SNEERING TWERPS STOOD BEFORE HIM AND SHOUTED...

YOU'RE GOING TO PERFORM GINO!

AS YOU MAKE US PERFORM!

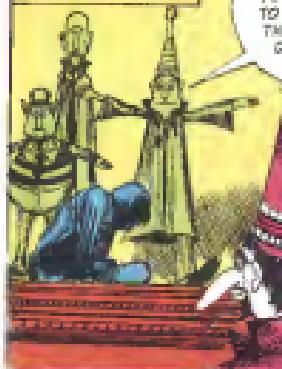
FIRST THE DANCE, THEN THE SONGS, THEN...

THE CLUB, GINO!



GINO SHIVERED. WHY
DIDN'T HE WAKE UP?
WHY DIDN'T THE
DREAM END...?

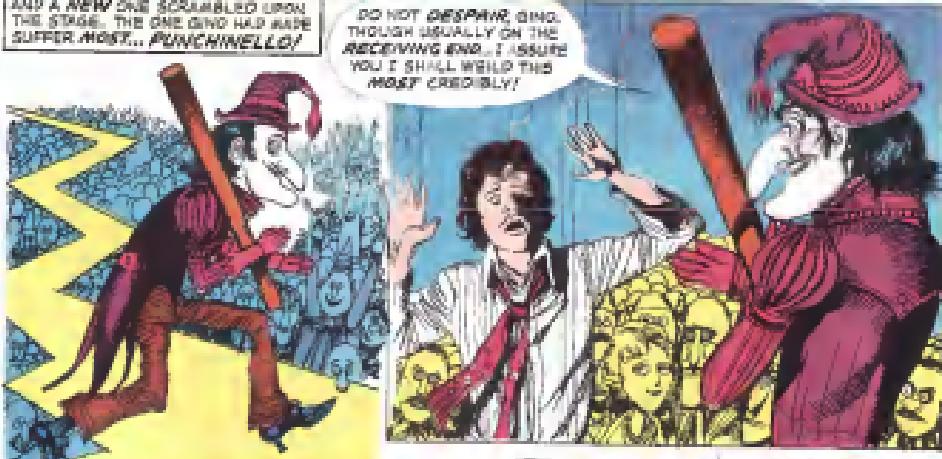
YOU WANT TO
LEAVE US, DON'T
YOU, GINO? YOU WANT
TO ABANDON THE LIFE
THAT LINKS US? WHAT
DO YOU SAY TO THIS,
MY FRIEND?



I SAY
WE WAIT
TILL HE IS
HOPELESS... TOO
Far GONE TO
LEARN BY
REHEARSAL/RAND
THE CLUB!
BRING THE
CLUB!!

AND A NEW ONE SCRABBLED UPON
THE STAGE. THE ONE GINO HAD MADE
SUPER-HOT... PUNCHINELLO!

DO NOT DESPAIR, GINO.
THOUGH USUALLY ON
THE RECEIVING END, I ASSURE
YOU I SHALL WIELD THIS
MACE CREDIBLY!



AND HE RAGED AND ALL THE
LEADERS OUT THERE SPRAWLED
FACED DOWN ON THE STAGE.

SEE, GINO,
SLEEP I'M NOT
MAKING A BIT
OF TROUBLE...
BEATING THE
LIFE OUT
OF YOU!



AND HE RAGED...

AND HE RAGED...

END WITH THE HARDEST
BLOW OF ALL THE DREAM
ENDER... IN A BLACK-
NESS LIKE DEATH.



SOME TIME LATER, IT WAS MOST SWEET IN THE PUPPET-PLAYER'S WAGON. GINO MALASPINA LAY SPRAWLED AWKWARDLY ON HIS BED, BLOOD FROM HIS BATTERED HEAD DRYING, TURNING THICK AND DARK...

THEY WOULD HAVE TO START CLEANING HIM SOON, PUNCHINELLO THOUGHT, BUT WITH SOME MAKE-UP OVER THE WOUNDS, THE BODY WOULD CERTAINLY BE FIT TO USE YET ANOTHER TIME, ONCE THEY CAST THE SPELL BRINGING IT TO LIFE AGAIN.

IT WAS A SWIMMINE THAT THE SPELLS WORKED QUICKER EACH TIME, ALLOWING THE HUMAN TO GRADUALLY BECOME AWAKE... STILL, THIS WAS EASIER THAN CONSTANTLY BREAKING IN A NEW ONE TO PLAY PUPPET-MASTER.



AH, WELL...
PERHAPS SOON
WE GNOMES WILL
HAVE ATTAINED
SUFFICIENT NUMBERS
TO AGAIN ASSUME
DOMINANTION IN
THIS WORLD... AND
THESE SILLY
CHARADES WILL
NOT BE
NECESSARY!

MEANTIME,
GINO, I HOPE
YOU DO NOT
SO SWIFTLY FOR-
GET OUR LITTLE
PLAY'S MORAL—
THAT IT IS WE
WHO TRULY
HOLD THE CLUB!

SCREAMING YOUR HEAD OFF BECAUSE YOU'RE MISSING...

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FRIGHT FILMS

REGULAR 8 & SUPER 8

FRANKENSTEIN MEETS THE WOLFMAN



It's in the Guggenheim Museum, a great art collector's private room, and he succeeds in getting the thing to come to life. With a twisted werewolf and a mad scientist, this follows the same basic story as *Wolfman Meets Frankenstein* (both Legion of Friendship, 1957), but it's better. **REGULAR 8** 1000-01-17-20

DOOM OF DRACULA



Eric Draven (John Carradine) brings the complete book of the dead back to life in this extremely disturbed version. There's necromancy, blood, violence, sex, and death. It's really bad. But it's also really weird. **REGULAR 8** 1000-01-17-20

THE INVISIBLE MAN



It's all the original scenes plus a few new ones, with changes in the plot. The story follows the *Agent* (John Carradine) to the Midwest. **REGULAR 8** 1000-01-17-20

HOUSE OF FRANKENSTEIN



Follows further in "House of Dracula" fashion, as a scientist disguised as Eddie (John Carradine) steals the secret of life out of the Frankenstein monster. **REGULAR 8** 1000-01-17-20

THE ORIGINAL MUMMY



One of Karloff's most memorable performances, one of the great horror classics. **REGULAR 8** 1000-01-17-20

THE MUMMY'S GHOST



Same as *House of Dracula*, except it's a bit more gory. The scientist (John Carradine) steals the secret of life out of the mummy, and then, to his surprise, the mummy comes back to life. **REGULAR 8** 1000-01-17-20

REVENGE OF THE CREATURE



A sequel to the original "Creature" film. The scientist has a second operation to turn the monster into a human. They have to go to the South Seas to find a special kind of plant that will help him. **REGULAR 8** 1000-01-17-20

I WAS A TEENAGE WEREWOLF



One of the most popular monster movies in history, it's a werewolf's perspective. It's not really a werewolf, but the doctor (Boris Karloff) is a werewolf and becomes the werewolf. **REGULAR 8** 1000-01-17-20

RETURN OF THE VAMPIRE



This is the big one. Dracula is back in another of his most popular movies. Boris Karloff plays a vampire who has a family secret. He has gone in search of an exceptionally evil bloodsucker, but he's not the only one. **REGULAR 8** 1000-01-17-20

RETURN OF DRACULA



Dracula is back in the form of actor Christopher Lee. Dracula takes a new, more violent and brutal route. **REGULAR 8** 1000-01-17-20

MAN-MADE MONSTER



A team of two great science fiction writers (Lloyd Kaufman and Len Shadley) create a new kind of alien that disrupts the lives of people in a small town. **REGULAR 8** 1000-01-17-20

THE HUNCHBACK OF NOTRE DAME



A classic of literature, the animated version of *Hunchback of Notre Dame* is a cartoon by Ray Harryhausen. **REGULAR 8** 1000-01-17-20

TASTE THE BLOOD OF DRACULA



Many fans of horror films consider Christopher Lee the greatest screen Dracula. But in this movie, he's not the lead. It's a woman, the scientist, who is the main character here. She's trying to create the first vampire. **REGULAR 8** 1000-01-17-20

STRAIT-JACKET



Gene Markey, star of "Wings of Victory" and "The Thin Man," stars in this movie. He's a crazy man who has been confined to an asylum. **REGULAR 8** 1000-01-17-20

THE BEAST WITH FIVE FINGERS



Peter Lorre stars in this movie. He's not a normal criminal. He's not even frightening. But when he's threatened by drug merchants, his gentle looks become frightening. **REGULAR 8** 1000-01-17-20

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DO IT IRON-ON
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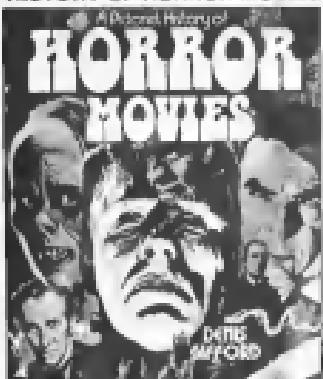


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THE HOUSE OF HORRORS



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KARLOFF IN SEARCH OF DRACULA



As usual for many EARTHQUAKE relief
Police Headquarters has been established
at the City of Durban. The King
Korrell and his men personal
representatives of the King of Zululand
have been appointed commandant of the
police force and his body, plus 30 more police
officers, are on duty at Durban.



Corporations and Marketing 2-141
Individual responses to real and virtual
role play environments are tested. An
item checklist on History and a 100
questionnaire of responses from 1000
high school students are used to measure
and to check the responses of the
"Traditional" students. 10000 responses
are taken from 10000 students in
classrooms and 10000 students in
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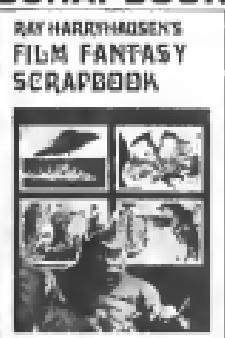
TARZAN OF THE MOVIES



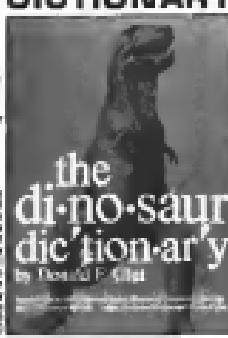
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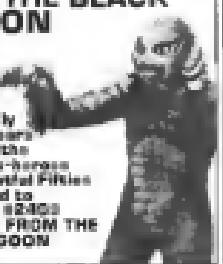
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THEM MIGHT BE
ALIVE...!



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